

## Eastern Region Edition

From Flaming Gorge to Navajo  
Mountain

October 2002

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State of Utah  
Department of Workforce Services

#### Eastern Region

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# EMPLOYER *Update*



## ALCO Opens New Store in Blanding with Assistance of Department of Workforce Services

**Duckwall-Alco Inc** held a grand opening for their newest ALCO store on August 6th in Blanding, Utah. The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) played an important role supporting ALCO's recruiting needs.

In the spring of 2002, Travis Black, the Blanding Employment Center's (EC) business consultant, approached ALCO when he first heard that they might be building a new store in Blanding. He searched the web to find ALCO Headquarters' telephone number and contacted their senior management to explain the services that DWS could provide. After the vice president of ALCO's western division, Dean Van Horn, made the official announcement to the Blanding Chamber of Commerce, his next stop was DWS. Travis wrote job orders for the assistant manager and group manager positions and scheduled dates for future hiring requirements. Mr. Van Horn praised DWS for their

thorough and professional services.

In June, DWS' Blanding office began screening applicants and scheduling interviews. After selection of the assistant manager and group managers, other floor employees were screened and interviewed.

ALCO hired 35 employees from a job-seeker pool of more than 150 applicants. "The Department of Workforce Services was invaluable helping us find quality employees," said Mr. Harley Bassett, the store manager. "They provided us with excellent candidates from which to choose." Services provided to ALCO included basic math skills testing, initial resume screening, and facilities for interviews.

On the first day of the grand opening, ALCO had over 1,200 paying customers and did \$33,000 in gross sales.



Sally Lyman, ALCO Assistant Manager (left), Travis Black, DWS Blanding Employment Center Business Consultant (middle), and Harley Bassett, ALCO Manager (right) pose in front of ALCO's newest store in Blanding, Utah.

## ***“Heads Up!” for Employers from UI Contributions***

Compared to last quarter, twice as many employers chose to file their UI wage and tax reports on the Internet. The quarter ending June 30 was only the second quarter for which on-line filing was available. Of those who used the Internet, about one third elected the to pay taxes on-line, using the electronic funds transfer (EFT) option.

Another exciting development is underway ~the new EWAGE system. Soon, an *Employer Advisor* from UI Contributions will announce availability of EWAGE. The new system will be provided free to Utah employers. EWAGE software will interface with an employer's own existing payroll system to create a UI system that is essentially free-standing on the employer's own computer. The system will prepare reports and maintain historical UI records; it will track employee wages reported to determine when the required taxable wage base has been exceeded. When desired, information may be uploaded to the Internet UI tax Web site where the employer will be automatically recognized and will be able take full advantage of Internet support available on-line.

## ***DWS has a role in the Governor's 1000-Day Economic Plan***

Part of the Governor's vision for economic prosperity is that quality jobs are available statewide.

**There are three strategies to realize this vision:**

- *Invest in people*
- *Develop Utah as a center for technology investment, employment, and entrepreneurship*
- *Enhance life quality*

An agile, innovative, and responsive workforce development system is a crucial component of this vision. Economic prosperity (of quality jobs available statewide) requires a united effort of education, economic development, and workforce services in order to equip Utah's workforce with higher skills and to connect Utah companies with qualified workers.

“As a department, we've accomplished several milestones that compliment the plan,” say the department's Executive Director Raylene Ireland. “We will continue to support the plan by providing services that will help develop our state as a center for technology investment, employment and entrepreneurship.”

## ***UI Extended Benefits Claims Winding Down***

By July, the proportion of claimants filing for extended unemployment benefits under the Temporary Economic Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program had decreased to 20% of total initial claims, reported Unemployment Insurance (UI) Director James Finch. When the program began in March 2002, 36% of all “new” filers were TEUC claimants.

The federally funded TEUC program was part of the President's Economic Stimulus Package and provide 13 weeks of additional payments to claimants who have previously exhausted regular Utah benefits. The week ending December 28, 2002 marks the end of the special benefits which were authorized in the wake of September 11, 2001 events. Including TEUC total, new unemployment claims this year are up 39.6% over last year.

## *Breakfast With Economist Series Continues Statewide*

Utah business professionals will have an opportunity to hear the latest economic news from a Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) Economist. The department assigns an economist to each region of the state to focus on the details of Utah's diverse and unique economy.

The breakfast seminars are free, and are part of a series of updates on the local and national economy. Check your local newspaper for the next seminar in your area.

### **Congratulations!**

The department's Workforce Information Division was recently recognized by the **Regional Financial Review**, as having the highest accuracy of all states for the past seven years.

## *Workforce Information Thanks Employers*

The Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) Workforce Information Division completed its Annual Refiling Survey for Covered Employment and Wages (CEW) on August 15, 2002. The annual survey helps to ensure the accuracy of the industry classifications upon which the unemployment tax structure rests. Industry classifications are assigned at the time a business registers with DWS. The CEW verifies the physical location and business activity of a portion of employers each year.

This year, 13,375 employers completed the survey for an 86% establishment response rate. The survey also captured information for over 90% of the employees covered by the survey. "Utah actually exceeded the federally required standards of 75% participation for each area in March," said Workforce Information Director Ron Ahlstrom. "We thank Utah employers for their excellent participation in this survey, which gives the information needed for proper UI taxation." Workforce Information at DWS is the leading source for state and local economic information in Utah. Ahlstrom added, "It is clear that Utah employers understand the information they provide to us is critical to identifying economic trends and improving workforce programs."

### **KUDOS**

*Letter to **Connie Carter (BSC)** and **Angie Kirsling (Midvale EC)***

*"The staff at **Remedy** would like to tell you how very much we appreciate your efforts on our behalf and in support of eBay, Inc. The level of service we receive is superb including the recruiting, assistance in screening, and follow up. The amount of chaos a Remedy/eBay job fair creates in your facility is massive, and you and your staff handle it so professionally and calmly. We couldn't recruit, screen and place the required number of candidates for eBay without your assistance and support. You are truly a superior resource for us and all the employers you serve. Thanks for all you do for us."*

**Marylee Krebs Hale,  
VP Remedy Intelligent  
Staffing:**

*"Just wanted to let you folks know how helpful it is to have all of this information on the Web. We are writing an Early Head Start grant for Beaver, Iron and Millard Counties and between your pages and links to other information, we have been able to much of it though your web site."*

**Virginia B. Higbee  
Director  
SUU Head Start**

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## Eastern Region

### Nonfarm Jobs in Eastern Region Drop

The national employment slow-down has carried into Utah's eastern counties. While Daggett, Carbon and San Juan counties showed some increases in jobs, Emery and Grand lost nearly 400 jobs. Duchesne County lost a

handful of jobs, while Uintah County had a decrease of 825. Total change for the Eastern Region's counties was a decrease of 1,129 jobs. For the state of Utah, the net change was a loss of 17,660 non-farm jobs, a 1.6% decrease.

Nationally, the unemployment rate for June remained at 5.9%, which translates into 8.4 million unemployed persons. In June of 2001, the unemployment rate was at 4.6%.

	June 2002 Non farm jobs	June 2001 Non farm jobs	% Change
Carbon	8,580	8,542	0.4
Emery	3,348	3,567	-6.1
Grand	4,685	4,835	-3.1
San Juan	4,060	4,040	0.5
Daggett	551	534	3.1
Duchesne	5,342	5,353	-0.2
Uintah	9,544	10,369	-8.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,112</b>	<b>39,241</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
<b>Utah</b>	<b>1,074,000</b>	<b>1,091,660</b>	<b>-1.6</b>

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

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